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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1004

May 16, 1994

COMMITTEES:
BANKING, FINANCE AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAY 11 1994

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY**

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing in regard to the implementation of Section 9 of the Communications Act of 1934, an issue of great concern to small broadcasters in the state of Georgia.

Section 9 authorizes the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to assess and collect the fee amounts established by the Schedule of Regulatory Fees set forth in Section 9. Under the schedule the fee amounts for commercial radio licensees will depend solely upon the designated class of the station involved. Fee amounts for commercial television licensees will vary depending on market size.

Under the proposed regulations, these fees will have a negative impact on small broadcasters. The current fee structure is not only inequitable, it disproportionately burdens small stations which may be forced to cut back on programming, or reduce public services, or make operational cutbacks, in order to make regulatory fee payments. Some stations which operate on a very slim margin may be forced to go off of the air as a result of the regulatory fees. These actions would lead to a degradation of service, which clearly is not in the public interest.

I urge the FCC to prevent this potential threat to the public interest. Under Section 9, the FCC has the discretion to waive, reduce, or defer the payment of regulatory license fees. Consequently, I recommend that the FCC take the following actions:

1. Consider the market size and revenue base of each broadcaster when determining the appropriate regulatory fee. Under the proposed radio station licensing fees, radio stations in the same class will pay the same regulatory fee amount, despite enormous differences in their service areas and revenue bases. For example, small Class C FM stations in rural areas which have a potential audience of thousands of listeners will pay the same fee as large Class C FM stations in Chicago, Los Angeles, or New York City, which have a potential audience of millions of listeners. I believe that revenue base should be considered in assessing fees so that small broadcasters are not disproportionately burdened.
2. Grant waivers, reductions and deferments of the fees based on a showing of financial hardship. Under the proposed rule, the FCC intends to interpret Section 9 (d) very narrowly and grant waivers, reductions or deferments of regulatory fees only in very unusual circumstances. I believe that the FCC should consider a showing of financial hardship as sufficient justification for a waiver, reduction or deferment. Small broadcasters with a tenuous financial position should not be further burdened with federal government regulatory fees.

Furthermore, under the proposed rule, broadcasters wishing to request a waiver or

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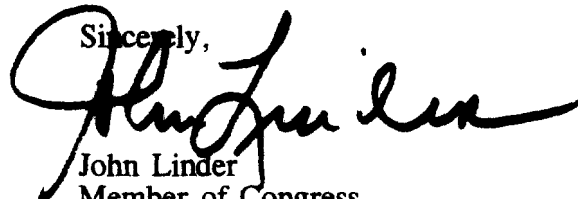
The Honorable Reed Hundt
May 16, 1994
Page 2

reduction in their fee must accompany their request with the appropriate regulatory fee. Stations in bankruptcy, receivership, or trustee ship, will be hard pressed to pay the fee. I believe it does not make sense to require a station requesting a waiver on the basis of financial hardship to be required to pay the fee.

3. Allow all broadcasters to pay their fees in installments. Under the proposed rule, only those broadcasters whose fees total \$12,000 or more are permitted to pay their fees in two equal installments. I believe that the public interest would be better served if all broadcasters were allowed to pay by installments. This would ensure that broadcasters have sufficient funds year round to produce and purchase programming that serves the needs and interests of their individual communities.

I respectfully ask you to consider these recommendations. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



John Linder
Member of Congress

JL:csr

the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

the United States
Representatives
Washington, D.C.

May 17, 1974

17, 1974

Sir/Madam:

The attached communication is sent for your consideration. Please investigate the statements contained therein and forward me the necessary information for reply, returning the enclosed correspondence with your answer.

Yours truly,

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Please investigate the
therein and forward me
ation for reply, return-
response with your

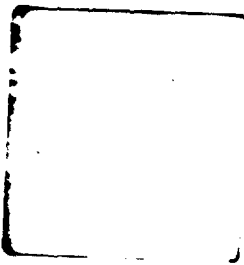
s truly,

Peter T. King
(NY-3)

M.C.

King

M.C.



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

May 17, 1974

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Yours truly,

Peter T. King
(NY-3)

M.C.

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Hon. Peter T. King
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman King:

I am writing to
license fees recently
radio licenses. Until
free, and most boat
law and received the
the cost of the license
change sets the cost

Marine radios are
leaves port without
inexpensive that today
not radio equipped.
is the same as charging
first aid kit or life
vital link between a

The result of this
the following:
1: Many boaters will
thereby choosing to buy
this "piracy" created
2: Some boaters will
increasing the chance

There is a class
lower income, to whom
old disabled WWII veterans
fish from; the retired
These are not luxury
older, second-hand vintage
fancy boats in this area
women's boats who are

This contemptible
unfair burden on the
safety of those who must
convert otherwise lawful

I am requesting that
necessary to repeal the